

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL SERVICES

Sen. Jennifer Veiga, Chair
Rep. Anne McGihon, ViceChair
Rep. Bob Gardner
Rep. Jeanne Labuda
Rep. Claire Levy
Rep. Ellen Roberts
Sen. Greg Brophy
Sen. Shawn Mitchell
Sen. John Morse
Sen. Gail Schwartz

**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES
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SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL SERVICES

January 23, 2009

The Committee on Legal Services met on Friday, January 23, 2009, at 8:47 a.m. in HCR 0109. The following members were present:

Senator Veiga, Chair
Senator Mitchell
Senator Morse
Senator Schwartz
Representative McGihon, Vice-chair
Representative B. Gardner
Representative Labuda
Representative Levy
Representative Roberts

Representative McGihon called the meeting to order. She said the first order of business on the Committee's agenda is the election of the Chair and Vice-chair.

8:49 a.m.

Senator Morse nominated Senator Veiga to serve as Chair of the Committee. Representative Labuda seconded the nomination. No objections were raised to that motion and it passed unanimously.

Senator Veiga asked for nominations for Vice-chair.

8:50 a.m.

Representative Levy nominated Representative McGihon to serve as Vice-chair of the Committee. No objections were raised to that motion and it

passed unanimously.

Senator Veiga said that is the only item on the agenda, other than "Other", and I'm not sure "Other" really denoted anything.

Charley Pike, Director, Office of Legislative Legal Services, addressed the Committee. He said no, but before the Committee leaves the room, would you all stop and visit with Dan Cartin for a moment who has something to give to you.

Senator Schwartz asked to clarify the calendar for the Committee's next meeting? Mr. Pike said the Committee may wish to have something put on the agenda for the next meeting that relates to the item that Mr. Cartin will distribute to you. That's kind of a judgment that you all will need to make by giving feedback to the Chair about what you see. I'm being a bit obtuse here, but that item you may or may not wish to put on the agenda. Mr. Pike asked Ms. Haskins if we have anything else with regard to rules?

Debbie Haskins, Senior Attorney, Office of Legislative Legal Services, addressed the Committee. She said we do have a rule issue for the Committee to address that Senator Mitchell had asked be on the agenda. That could possibly be combined with the other issue. We also have the oil and gas rules coming up. We're still reviewing them. I think we're looking at probably a Friday afternoon meeting mid-February, maybe the 20th. I think the Committee will need to plan to be here a few hours. The Committee has a fair amount of business to do in the next month.

Senator Veiga said it sounds like we need to set a meeting before the oil and gas rules and we'll try to set the meeting for the oil and gas rules in and of itself. That will take a lot of time and energy.

Representative McGihon said I'm curious, on the oil and gas rules, the Attorney General's Office has issued an opinion and your Office is doing your rule review pursuant to that. Is that correct? Ms. Haskins said it's the standard Attorney General opinion that we always get and we look at it and make our own call on that.

Representative Roberts said if we have a Friday afternoon meeting, if I could get at least two weeks advance notice, because I buy my plane ticket to return home two weeks in advance.

Senator Schwartz said the Joint Select Committee on Job Creation and

Economic Development has been calendared upon adjournment on Fridays through the end of February.

Ms. Haskins asked if it is every Friday? Senator Schwartz said yes, it's because the Job Creation Committee will only be alive until February 27, so we're trying to get our work done should we be able to wrap things up prior to that.

Senator Veiga said that will probably be a little late for us relative to the oil and gas commission rules. We'll work with Senator Schwartz in looking at the Job Creation Committee and dates.

Senator Schwartz said it's also Senator Veiga and Senator Mitchell on the Job Creation Committee. Senator Veiga said yes, several of us Committee members are on the Jobs Creations Committee. In terms of Senator Schwartz being the chair of that committee, we'll look at coordinating. I don't know that there's any significant block of time other than Friday afternoons and I know we're going to need a significant block of time for the oil and gas rules. We'll just have to coordinate. I suspect that if we're ready to go by about mid-February, we're going to have to set a meeting because we can't delay the rule review bill any longer. We're going to have to start moving forward on that.

Representative Levy asked, for clarification, what's the earliest we anticipate that the oil and gas rules will come to this Committee? Ms. Haskins said I hesitate to give a date, frankly. We have been working very hard to get through the rules, but it's a very, very busy time for the Office right now with the deadlines for bill drafting. I think probably February 20 would be reasonable. I don't think it would be earlier than that.

There was further discussion about when the Committee could meet and give the seven-day notice requirement for this Committee. Senator Veiga said we have further notice for Representative Roberts anyway, in terms of giving her at least a couple weeks. We will do the best we can to schedule it far enough out. It's a big issue, everybody is following it, everybody is concerned about it.

8:57 a.m.

The Committee adjourned.